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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 11 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 11 October 1994 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of that letter and its annex, which contains the statement made by H.E. Mr. Atay A. Raşit, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on 3 October 1994 in response to the speech delivered by Mr. Glafcos Clerides, leader of the Greek Cypriot administration, to the General Assembly, could be circulated as a document of the forty-ninth session of the Assembly, under agenda item 51, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 11 October 1994 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the statement made on 3 October 1994 by H.E. Mr. Ahmet Atay Raşit, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in response to the speech made by the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, to the General Assembly on 3 October 1994 (see A/49/PV.14).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 51, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Appendix

Mr. Clerides claims that the Turkish Cypriot side is intransigent and cites the Secretary-General's report of 30 May 1994 as evidence (see S/1994/629). However, he conveniently totally ignores the Secretary-General's subsequent report (in the form of a letter dated 28 June 1994) (S/1994/785) in which the Secretary-General clearly states that considerable progress was achieved on the Turkish Cypriot side towards acceptance of the package of confidence-building measures, and that it was the Greek Cypriot side that was not prepared to accept the package as a whole, including the clarifications agreed in Vienna and Nicosia. Mr. Clerides has even gone so far as to declare the package dead, and resorted to blackmailing tactics, threatening resignation if forced to accept the implementation of the confidence-building measures.

Mr. Clerides advances the hypocritical and insincere argument that the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community is essentially its own fault and that of Turkey. He deliberately fails to mention, however, that the establishment of the Turkish Cypriot State is the ultimate result of the forcible expulsion by the Greek Cypriots of the entire Turkish Cypriot element from the State mechanism of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus as from December 1963 and their campaign to take over Cyprus by force, culminating in the Greek coup d'état of 15 July 1974. The Turkish Cypriots were even more isolated during the tragic years between 1963 and 1974, when they lived as virtual prisoners in their enclaves scattered around the island, the total area of which was no larger than a mere 3 per cent of the territory of Cyprus. It should also be mentioned that Turkey was not even on the scene in Cyprus during that time, a fact that indicates that the present isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community has nothing to do with Turkey's presence, but is the work of the Greek Cypriot side and its inhuman embargo. In fact Turkey, in addition to guaranteeing the security of the Turkish Cypriots, is the only country helping us to overcome the suffering of our people as a result of the Greek Cypriot embargo.

Mr. Clerides puts forward the precondition that the basis of a future solution must first of all be established before confidence-building measures can be taken up. It is obvious that the "basis" that Mr. Clerides talks about is a return to the unacceptable conditions that prevailed before 1974. That "basis" has been tried and not only failed but also proved to be disastrous for Cyprus and dangerous for the peace of the region as a whole.

The procedure envisaged by Mr. Clerides, namely the prior discussion of the overall issue rather than confidence-building measures, is quite simply putting the cart before the horse, since the Secretary-General himself has also stated in his recent relevant reports that it is the deep crisis of confidence that is obstructing progress towards an overall solution in Cyprus and that such a solution would be greatly facilitated if a series of confidence-building measures was implemented.

Mr. Clerides' well-known rhetoric about alleged "invasion and occupation" adds insult to injury since it was Greece that had occupied Cyprus between 1963 and 1974. He has now added a new phrase to this rhetoric with the term "ethnic cleansing". It is Mr. Clerides' own side and own administration that is guilty

of all the above charges, since it was they who unleashed the first "ethnic cleansing" campaign in the second half of the twentieth century by massacring and driving out the Turkish Cypriots from their homes and properties as well as the bicommunal Government during the attacks against us in 1963 aimed at annexing Cyprus to Greece, under the notorious "Akritas plan".

Mr. Clerides' propaganda regarding "demilitarization" is clearly aimed at depriving the Turkish Cypriot people of the only effective means of security, which is the presence of the Turkish peace force under the Treaty of Guarantee. This proposition is not only totally unrealistic but is also utterly insincere, since even in 1963 the Turkish Cypriots were attacked not by regular military forces, but by armed militia, underground armed elements and paramilitary forces relying on the numerical advantage of the Greek Cypriot community vis-à-vis the Turkish Cypriot community. The Turkish Cypriot people are not prepared to put themselves in a position of vulnerability ever again under the pretence of "demilitarization", especially in the present conditions of a total lack of trust and confidence between the two communities.

We have instead proposed a non-aggression agreement between the two sides and, if Mr. Clerides is sincere, he would respond positively to this serious and constructive proposal.